



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	6961/4
Duration of Permit:	From 11 June 2016 to 31 December 2031
Permit Holder:	Hamersley Iron Pty Limited

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I - CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Land on which clearing is to be done

Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act 1963, Mineral Lease 4SA (AML 70/4).
Miscellaneous Licence 47/178
Miscellaneous Licence 47/855

2. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purposes of mineral exploration, access road, hydrogeological and geotechnical investigations and associated activities.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 601 hectares of native vegetation. All clearing must be within the areas cross-hatched yellow or shaded red on attached Plans 6961/4A, 6961/4B, 6961/4C and 6961/4D.

4. Restricted Clearing

The Permit Holder shall only clear native vegetation within the areas shaded red on attached Plans 6961/4A, 6961/4B, 6961/4C and 6961/4D for the purpose of access tracks.

5. Period in which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 31 December 2026.

6. Staged Clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised commences within six months of the authorised clearing being undertaken.

7. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

PART II - MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

8. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

9. Weed control

When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (ii) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

10. Vegetation management – watercourses and drainage line surface flow

- (a) Where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing *riparian* vegetation.
- (b) Where a *watercourse* is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall maintain the existing surface flow.

11. Flora Management

Where the following *priority flora* have been identified and their written locations provided to the *CEO* and retained on the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety file “A0369/201601” as “Doc ID 4411928”

- (i) *Eremophila* sp. Hamersley Range (K. Walker KW 136)
- (ii) *Hibiscus* sp. Mt Brockman (E. Thoma ET 1354)
- (iii) *Sida* sp. Hamersley Range (K. Newbey 10692)
- (iv) *Hibiscus* sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E.T. 15708)
- (v) *Ipomoea racemigera*
- (vi) *Oxalis* sp. Pilbara (M.E. Trudgen 12725)
- (vii) *Pentalepis trichodesmoides* subsp. *hispida*
- (viii) *Indigofera gilesii*
- (ix) *Tetradthea butcheriana*

The Permit Holder shall ensure that:

- (a) No clearing of *priority flora* occurs, unless first approved by the *CEO*; and
- (b) No clearing occurs within 10 metres of *priority flora*, unless first approved by the *CEO*.

12. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared;
- (b) within 12 months following completion of clearing authorised under this Permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
 - (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under Condition 12(a) on the cleared area.
- (c) within 4 years of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with Condition 12(b) of this Permit:
 - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
 - (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under Condition 12(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and

density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

13. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared;
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
 - (iv) purpose for which clearing was undertaken.
- (b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to Condition 12 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken; and
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares).
- (c) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the extent of clearing in accordance with Condition 8 of this Permit; and
- (d) actions taken to minimise the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with Condition 9 of this Permit.

14. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder shall provide a report to the *CEO* by 30 June each year for the life of this Permit, demonstrating adherence to all conditions of this Permit, and setting out the records required under Condition 13 of this Permit in relation to clearing carried out between 1 January and 31 December of the previous calendar year.
- (b) Prior to 31 December 2031, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under Condition 13 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under Condition 14(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for administering the clearing provisions contained within the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* or an Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

direct seeding means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

environmental specialist means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable environmental specialist;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 200 kilometres and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared;

mulch means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

priority flora means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' *Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

regeneration means *revegetation* that can be established from in situ seed banks contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;

riparian vegetation has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004;

watercourse has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*;

weed/s means any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Dan Endacott
General Manager Environmental Compliance
Resource and Environmental Compliance Division
28 May 2020

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20
of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*